Adapt-CA Checklist Stakeholder Engagement & Partnerships

Maturity Level	Agency Attributes	Value Added
Level 1: Initiation	 Opportunistic communication and engagement with community to build basic understanding of climate risks and identification of high-level adaptation priorities Ad-hoc collaboration with external stakeholders on a project-to-project basis on climate adaptation Awareness of regional adaptation policies 	 Relationships with community and external stakeholders are established Community has an increased awareness of key climate risks and adaptation concerns Agency is beginning a process to share risks with community Initial understanding of regional adaptation policy landscape
Level 2: Development	 Adaptation point person(s) engages with key community audiences regarding climate risks and adaptation at a few planned events More detailed community adaptation priorities identified Initial climate change communication/engagement training provided, including skill building around climate skepticism and other engagement challenges Broad understanding of external partners' skills, resources, and work on climate risks and adaptation Occasional collaboration with external stakeholders on a project-to-project basis Ad-hoc attempts to engage in external policy around community-wide or regional climate risks and resilience 	 Community adaptation priorities can begin to be taken into account in agency adaptation efforts Staff are able to deepen community's understanding of climate change risks, potential impacts, and can share initial response strategies in order to overcome common obstacles to community engagement Staff has a better understanding of opportunities to collaborate with and leverage skills of external partners and begins to be part of regional conversations for shared initiatives
Level 3: Standardization	 Regular, timely, and effective engagement with relevant community audiences, implementing the initial engagement plan and responding to emerging engagement needs and opportunities Staff involved in public engagement efforts are skilled climate communicators and facilitators Consistent collaboration and relationships established with external stakeholders around shared risks, high-priority policies, and opportunities Shared adaptation goals aligned and common adaptation roles are defined and documented Formal mechanisms established to engage in external policy development around community-wide, regional, or sector climate risks and resilience as well as response strategies including finance, legal, and implementation 	 Community consistently feels involved and invested in agency adaptation efforts Agency is effective in sharing relevant and up-to- date climate risk and response information with the community The burden of some aspects of adaptation understanding and response efforts is shared on a regional level Relationships with external stakeholders are clear and formalized to ensure effective utilization at the project or program level Agency has a strong voice in external policy on climate risks and adaptation responses
Level 4: Optimization	 On-going proactive engagement with community audiences on climate risks and response strategies Engagement activities are frequently assessed as to the achievement of engagement goals, regularly reviewed and fed back into general community engagement process (including conflict resolution process) and other adaptation planning processes to ensure ongoing improvement Formal partnerships with external stakeholders are established at a variety of levels (local, regional, state, NGO, academic) for a variety of purposes (e.g. policy, planning, finance) Effective, formalized mechanism(s) for influencing policy at the regional or state level Adaptation efforts coordinated with external stakeholders (both peer agencies and technical stakeholders) Adaptive management is applied to foster flexibility, innovation, and partnership network growth 	 Community is very aware of risks for the short and long term, of agency adaptation progress, and how the response of the agency reflects and responds to community priorities Engagement is transparent, equitable, and robust and any conflicts are managed in an effective manner that builds engagement in adaptation efforts as opposed to creating barriers Partnerships with external stakeholders are institutionalized and resilient to staffing and leadership changes External policy can be influenced